



## STONYHURST COLLEGE and STONYHURST ST. MARY'S HALL COVID-19 STAFF UPDATE

November 2022

AMDG

During the Winter months it is not unusual to see an increase in the numbers of people with colds, flu and other respiratory infections. Since 2020, those infections have included various strains of Covid-19. Whilst we are thankfully in a much better place now with Covid than we were, the virus is still with us and we therefore need to remain vigilant. There are still people within society who remain vulnerable to experiencing more serious Covid complications.

Stonyhurst remains committed to providing as safe an environment as possible for all members of the community and for anyone visiting the Campus.

Since the removal of all legislative Covid restrictions in the UK earlier this year, the emphasis has been on "living with Covid" by getting vaccinated and adopting "Safe behaviours" to keep ourselves and others as safe as we can. Rules have been replaced by guidance.

Much of the information provided within the last Covid-Risk Assessment document of 24<sup>th</sup> February remains useful. It can be viewed on the Stonyhurst Website via the link: [StonyhurstCovid-19RiskAssessmenteffective24thFebruary2022.pdf \(finalsite.net\)](#)

As a school, Stonyhurst cannot mitigate all the risks associated with Covid-19 or other respiratory illnesses. However, best endeavours will be made to provide a Covid-safe environment by keeping risk assessments under review and by being mindful of available guidance. We will be particularly aware of the needs of pupils and colleagues who may be more adversely affected if they were to contract Covid or a similar respiratory infection.

There has been a recent increase in flu and related illnesses at Stonyhurst, including Covid. We are therefore asking everyone to adopt "**Safe behaviours**" as per the Government and NHS advice detailed below:

✚ If you have not already done so, consider taking up the offer of a Covid Vaccination (*You can now have a seasonal booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, subject to eligibility*) [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Flu vaccinations are also available, free for those eligible [The flu vaccination: who should have it and why - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

✚ Practice good hand and respiratory hygiene (*wash your hands thoroughly and regularly and cover your coughs and sneezes*).

✚ Use the hand sanitisers provided across the school campus.

✚ Let as much ventilation as possible into rooms where there are groups of people gathering (*classrooms, boarding areas, communal meeting rooms*).

<p>✚ Be mindful of social distancing to reduce the chance of spreading infection by close contact.</p>
<p>✚ If you have a temperature and/or are experiencing symptoms which are making you feel unwell contact your Line Manager and remain at home until you feel well enough to return to work.</p>
<p>✚ If you test positive for Covid and you are unwell with symptoms, please let your Line Manager know you will be absent from work until you feel well enough to return. If your role enables you to work from home, and you feel well enough to work, you should discuss doing so with your Line Manager. When you return to work, please be particularly cautious about contact with colleagues (and pupils) who may be more vulnerable to the virus.</p>
<p>✚ If you test positive for Covid but have no symptoms and feel able to come to work as normal, please avoid contact with people who may be more vulnerable to the serious effects of the virus and where possible avoid crowded spaces and close contact. Please ensure you follow good hand and respiratory hygiene. If you feel there are temporary amendments that could be made to your role to reduce any risk of spreading the virus, please speak with your Line Manager to discuss if they could be accommodated.</p>
<p>✚ Although extremely busy at present, the Health Centre Team are available for advice, but your Pharmacist / NHS online / GP surgery / local Health provider should be your first point of contact if you require medical assistance or guidance.</p>
<p>✚ From a pupil perspective, it is not now recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional. NHS Guidance is that if a pupil is tested and has a positive COVID-19 test result they should stay at home and/or avoid contact with other people until they are feeling well enough to return to school and do not have a high temperature. Children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults. Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.</p> <p>Pupils who may be particularly vulnerable are able to wear a sunflower lanyard, if they wish to do so, organised via the SEND team <a href="https://www.hiddendisabilitiesstore.com">A symbol for non-visible disabilities (hiddendisabilitiesstore.com)</a></p>
<p>✚ Any colleagues who might be more vulnerable to the effects of Covid-19 <a href="https://www.nhs.uk">Who is at high risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</a> can always speak individually to their Line Manager and/or a member of the HR Team about any concerns they may have and/or about any additional protective measures they feel would be helpful. Colleagues who are more vulnerable can, if they wish to do so, wear a multi-coloured lanyard to indicate their vulnerability to others. The alternative lanyards are available from the Security Lodge.</p>
<p>✚ Stonyhurst will fully support any member of staff wishing to wear a face-covering as a preventative measure to try and reduce the spread of winter viruses, including Covid-19.</p>

## **Summary**

The health and welfare of the whole Stonyhurst Community remains the highest priority for the Governors and the School leadership. During much of 2020/2021 the Government legislated on many aspects of Covid-19. Now, as part of “Living with Covid”, there has been a shift to guidance only.

Individuals are being asked to make personal judgements based on their own risk assessment of their particular circumstances.

However, as an employer we have a duty of care to all our employees and would therefore ask everyone to factor into their decision making the importance of keeping each other, and our pupils, safe. As a school we will do whatever is practicable to support staff during what is a challenging time in terms of respiratory diseases during the winter months. We also remain mindful of the need to ensure we have adequate staffing to provide continuity of education for all our pupils. Online teaching may, if necessary, be used in certain circumstances, where it is possible and appropriate to do so.

The weeks ahead may present challenges in terms of staff absence and maintaining safe staffing levels. We would therefore ask colleagues to consider seriously whether or not you need to attend any non-essential out-of-school events such as external training courses or meetings.

We would also ask for your continued patience and understanding in respect of any additional cover requests you may receive. We are grateful to all colleagues who have been so generous in their willingness to assist with cover requirements in the teaching and pastoral areas and also to non-teaching colleagues who have assisted in covering for absence within and beyond their own departments.

## **References**

In preparing this update, the school has referred to information from the following links:

[People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19) [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus/)

[COVID-19: guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-people-whose-immune-system-means-they-are-at-higher-risk)

[Coronavirus: Joint union guidance for schools and other settings | NEU](https://www.neu.org.uk/coronavirus-joint-union-guidance-for-schools-and-other-settings)

[COVID-19 advice for school and early years staff | Key issues | UNISON National](https://www.unison.org.uk/covid-19-advice-for-school-and-early-years-staff)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) – Advice for workplaces \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/)

**Update approved by:** John Browne, Stonyhurst Headmaster and Fr Christopher Cann, SMH Headmaster

***LDS***